

cocoa and some argument about tobacco but I insist that tobacco was here. Potatoes. Throughout the Americas, we wove together what the Europeans brought with what we already had here. And in many parts of this Western Hemisphere, the Indians, we call them that, the Aztecs in Mexico, they had irrigation systems, they had aqueducts. At the same time they had aqueducts in Spain and all the areas of Europe. The basic American water law comes from Spain. But the natives in this hemisphere, the Aztecs, performed surgery. They had zoological gardens grander than any that you see now throughout our country. They had pyramids grander than those on the River Nile. And in Guatemala and in the Yucatan and in Peru, the Incas, we had a civilization equal at least to that that came from Europe. This is part of our history, part of our culture.

That is what I wanted to tell my colleagues, that when we celebrate Mexican independence day, we are celebrating part of what has been an impact on what is now the United States of America, including territory. Because this was the way to the Pacific that belonged to Mexico at that time, in 1848, the Treaty of Dolores Hidalgo that was transferred to the then fledgling United States of America. So you cannot separate the issue. I as an individual cannot separate or bring myself to separate myself from the culture, from the ethnic derivatives. I serve this Nation, this country, that flag. But yet some of my ancestors served the other country and that flag, and forever I will have respect for both, but loyalty to this one. So that is something I wanted to make clear. For those who may have some confusion, for those that may ask, well, why would we celebrate Mexican independence?

Mexico has had a very harsh history, occupied by Spaniards first, occupied by the French. President Benito Juarez began the process of ridding Mexico of the French occupation. The Austrian emperor opposed an emperor of Mexico named Maximilian and they did not have the ability to resist but eventually a humble Indian named Benito Juarez led an effort to rid Mexico of the imposition of foreign rule. And we celebrate the Fifth of May, which is the culminating battle, not the end, of getting the French out of Mexico. That is celebrated on the border and through many parts of the United States where there are Mexicans or of Mexican descent, because this was what rid all of the new world of foreign powers. The French were the last to occupy Mexico and after that, there has been basically no formal occupation of any of the lands of North and South America. We celebrate that with great joy, we do in Texas because the general that led the Mexican troops had been born in Texas, when Texas was a part of Mexico. So we take great pride in that. That general was born in what is now my congressional district, in Goliad, TX, when his father was head of the garrison for

the Mexican army in Goliad, TX. Goliad later played a part in the Texas effort for independence against Mexico. But I wanted to congratulate, if for no one else but myself as a Member of this House, the people of Mexico and the Government of Mexico.

One word that I would like to leave, and it is quoted quite often, that President Benito Juarez said that "among men, as among nations, respect for the rights of others is peace." And that we honor on the Fifth of May.

And then another great President of Mexico and my good and dear friend, President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, said right here from this rostrum when he delivered an address to a joint session of Congress that, and I quote, "Geography has made us neighbors, history has made use friends." He said that right from here, Madam Speaker. And that is what we celebrate when we celebrate. You cannot separate the United States of America, as we know it today, from the Mexican people, from the Mexican culture because, as President Diaz Ordaz said, "Geography has made us neighbors, history has made us friends." That is irrevocable, that is inseparable.

And so I join with all of those that celebrated yesterday throughout the United States Mexican independence with this explanation, if I might call it, of why we do that, why we are proud, and what we have done in order to foster and enhance the United States of America which for those of use that are citizens is indeed something that we feel that an accident of history made me a citizen of the United States of America but one that I am terribly proud, but I will always have a love, admiration and respect for the Mexican people because at one time we were part and a great part of our country was part of their country. That is irrevocable, but also you cannot separate it from your feelings and from the interests that you have when neighbors honor and respect neighbors.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GANSKE (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today and the balance of the week, on account of illness.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), on Tuesday, September 17, on account of being unavoidably detained.

Mr. HEINEMAN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today and the balance of the week, on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. GREENE of Utah) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes September 20.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes each day on September 17, 18, 19, and 20.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. GREENE of Utah, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes on September 17 and 18.

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GONZALEZ) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. STOKES.

Mr. BENTSEN.

Mr. SKELTON.

Mr. DEUTSCH.

Ms. DELAURO.

Mr. LEVIN.

Ms. WOOLSEY.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

Mr. DELLUMS.

Mr. REED.

Mr. UNDERWOOD.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. NADLER.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida.

Mr. POSHARD.

Mr. PALLONE.

Mr. JACOBS.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. GREENE of Utah) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska.

Mr. FIELDS of Texas.

Mr. TALENT in three instances.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey in two instances.

Mr. BASS.

Mr. RADANOVICH.

Mr. BEREUTER in two instances.

Mrs. MORELLA.

Mr. BILIRAKIS.

Mr. SCHIFF.

Mr. MARTINI in two instances.

Mr. HUTCHINSON.

Mr. DORNAN.

Mr. BURR.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DE LA GARZA and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. CLINGER.

Mr. DUNCAN.

Mr. CHRYSLER.

Mr. GOODLATTE.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

Mr. EVERETT.

Ms. KAPTUR.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.